

Elaboration Strategies for Persuasive Writing:

- Cause and Effect. Show how agreeing with your position will lead to good results. This is the “If. . . . then. . . .” strategy.

If Mansfield Middle School students had recess, then they would be better able to focus in class. Physical exercise helps to clear the mind. When students minds are clear, they pay attention to their work. . . .

Personal or Known Experience:

- Provide an example to show how you have witnessed or experienced the benefits of your position. . . .

When I was in fourth grade, I was worried about taking the CMT. At recess, I played soccer with my friends. As I played, I found that I worried less. Physical activity has always helped me forget about my troubles. When I returned to class, I was able to focus and did not worry about the test anymore.

Compare/Contrast:

- Show the benefits of your position compared to the opposite side.

When you allow students to move around during the day, you will see that students will be more willing to perform tasks assigned to them. Detentions for misbehavior will not be as prevalent and test scores and assignment scores will improve. Students will be happier because teachers will call home to share positive academic and behavioral results instead of negative comments.

Facts:

- If you have facts available, use them to support your reasons.

When I asked my friends, nine out of ten students said that recess would help them achieve greater school success. Physical exercise has been proven scientifically to improve academic performance according to a study reported in “Scientific Weekly.”

Anticipate Objections:

- Think ahead. Consider what objections your reader might have to your position and offer a counter-argument.

You might think that giving students the opportunity to run around might be a waste of time since students could use that extra time to complete assignments. If students are stress free and

more focused, they will not need as much time to finish their work. They will be more attentive to assignments and require less time to complete them since physical activity takes away the inclination to daydream and waste time. Students will be more productive and happier overall.

Description/ Snapshot/ Sensory Details:

- Add details that will appeal to the reader's senses: Sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste.

Imagine a school in which students are happy, stress free, and productive. The sounds of student' pencils on the paper and keyboards clicking are more prevalent because students are well rested and better able to produce desired results. The Vice-Principal's office is so quiet that one can almost hear crickets chirping.

Appeal to Audience:

- Identify your audience's priorities and explain reasons that will appeal to them.

Often, I have heard you talk about the importance of students being successful and happy. We have five to six academic classes per day. Although you may think that PE provides enough of a physical outlet for us, we only have it three days per week. Recess would give us physical activity each day of the week and help us to achieve better academic results. Happy students are productive students.